

## **Souhegan TRC Annual Report November 2005**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch

NH Senate President, Theodore L. Gatsas

Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr.

Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Michael P. Nolin  
and the State Library

November 1, 2005

by

Souhegan River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Souhegan River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2005. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, “The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library.”

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Souhegan TRC at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/souhegan.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings.

The Technical Review Committee of the Souhegan Instream Flow Pilot Program held its first meeting of 2005 on January 7 to discuss the methods that would be used for evaluating groundwater interactions with surface water task (Task 2). Wayne Ives, NHDES Instream Flow Specialist, gave a presentation on using Continuous Under Threshold (CUT) Curve Analysis for MesoHABSIM results. This is the method that will be used by the contractor for rendering the results of the MesoHABSIM habitat model into protected stream flow values.

The second meeting was held on April 1 to hear preliminary results of the groundwater interactions with surface water task (Task 2) and for the contractor to describe the form and function of the future protected instream flow levels and water management plans for the Souhegan River. Of particular interest to the committee was that the PISF process and results be understandable to the public and that the results be practical for DES to implement. The contractor described the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis that will be used to incorporate the Affected Water Users' and Affected Dam Owners' preferences into the selection of water management alternatives.

The contractors have been busy during the summer conducting the bulk of the work under this program which is the protected instream flow assessments under Task 5. There will not be many reviewable products until this task is near completion. The next TRC meeting is planned for

November 2005 to get the final results of Task 2 and to hear a presentation on the development and results of Target Fish Community analysis. The Target Fish Community is a major component of the MesoHABSIM habitat model for fish. This model will define protected flows for fish for the river.

UNH's Souhegan Instream Flow Project website is at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/>. Other web links include:

Draft Method for Assessing Groundwater Withdrawals (Task 2)  
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/pdf/GWMethod.pdf>

UNH presentation overview of PISF and WMP (includes preliminary results of Task 2 - GW/SW interactions study)  
[http://www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/Presentations/April\\_1\\_TRC\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/Presentations/April_1_TRC_files/frame.htm)

CUT Curve Assessment Method (Task 5) - NHDES presentation  
[http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/20050106\\_CUT\\_Curves\\_final.ppt#44](http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/20050106_CUT_Curves_final.ppt#44)

### **Committee Changes**

Sen. Russell Prescott (serving *ex officio*) was not reelected. Sen. Carl Johnson replaced him April 14, 2005.

## SOUHEGAN RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

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